

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 01401 232247Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4541

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1401

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JM
SUBJECT: JAMAICA PARM

REF; STATE 56023

1. REFTEL PROVIDED DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON U.S. INTERESTS, OBJECTIVES AND ISSUES VIS-A-VIS JAMAICA PARM. WE CONCUR IN THE THOUGHTS OFFERED AND HAVE TAKEN THEM INTO FULL ACCOUNT IN PREPARATION OF PARM WITH EXCEPTION OF THE FOLLOWING OUR COMMENT OFFERED SEPARATELY FROM PARM SINCE REFTEL IS STADIS.

2. FIRST SENTENCE, PARA 1, REFTEL STATES "JAMAICA'S POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN AND IN THE THIRD WORLD COMPELS US TO TAKE THE GOJ'S ATTITUDES AND PROBLEMS SERIOUSLY". WE DO AGREE THAT FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS DISCUSSED IN OUR PARM SUBMISSION WE MUST TAKE GOJ'S ATTITUDES AND PROBLEMS SERIOUSLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE QUESTION JAMAICA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE THIRD WORLD AND THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN. REGARDING THE CARIBBEAN, WE DOUBT THAT ANY OTHER STATE AT THIS TIME LOOKS TO JAMAICA FOR LEADERSHIP. TO THE CONTRARY JAMAICAN ACTIONS WHICH MAY SIGNAL THE DEATH OF CARICOM,
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JAMAICA'S LEFTWARD MOVEMENT, AND A PARTIALLY SELF-PRODUCED ECONOMIC CRISIS ARE MATTERS OF CONCERN TO A NUMBER OF OTHER CARIBBEAN STATES. THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST THAT JAMAICA HAS NO INFLUENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN -- BUT THAT INFLUENCE IS MORE AMONG VARIOUS OPPOSITION RADICAL ELEMENTS THAN ON GOVERNMENTS. AS TO GUYANA, WE ASSUME PM BURNHAM LOOKS UPON PM MANLEY AS AN IDEO-

LOGICAL PARTNER, BUT WE DOUBT THAT HE WOULD CONCEDE TO
MICHAEL MANLEY A "LEADERSHIP ROLE" IN THE COMMONWEALTH
CARIBBEAN. IN SUM, JAMAICA IS A MAJOR FORCE BUT
NOT A LEADER IN THE CARIBBEAN.

3. CONCERNING THE THIRD WORLD, SUCH PROMINENCE AS
JAMAICA HAS HAD IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN LARGELY THROUGH
THE PERSONAL EFFORTS OF MICHAEL MANLEY AND THE PREVIOUS
FOREIGN MINISTER, DUDLEY THOMPSON. THE LATTER IS NOW
OFF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SCENE AND THE NEW FOREIGN
MINISTER, P J PATTERSON, IS SOMEWHAT MORE PRAGMATIC
THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. WHILE BOTH MANLEY AND PATTERSON
WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO SEEK A JAMAICAN LEADERSHIP
ROLE IN THE THIRD WORLD, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE
THAT JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS REACHED PROPORTIONS
WHICH WILL REQUIRE MANLEY AT LEAST TO FOCUS HIS EFFORTS
ON JAMAICAN AS AGAINST THIRD WORLD LEADERSHIP. FOR
THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, THEREFORE, JAMAICA'S ROLE WILL
BE AN IMPORTANT ONE IN THE THIRD WORLD BUT NOT
NECESSARILY ONE OF LEADERSHIP.
GERARD

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